MARVEL

661

GAGE
BROWN
OLAZABA
RAUCH

THE AVENGERS ACADEMY GETS SCHOOLED!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

NOW, WHO HAS TO USE THE LITTLE SUPER HEROES' ROOM?

OOO!
OOO!
OOO!

PACK YOUR LUNCHES! IT'S TIME FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER!

(CAN YOU EVEN STAND IT?!)

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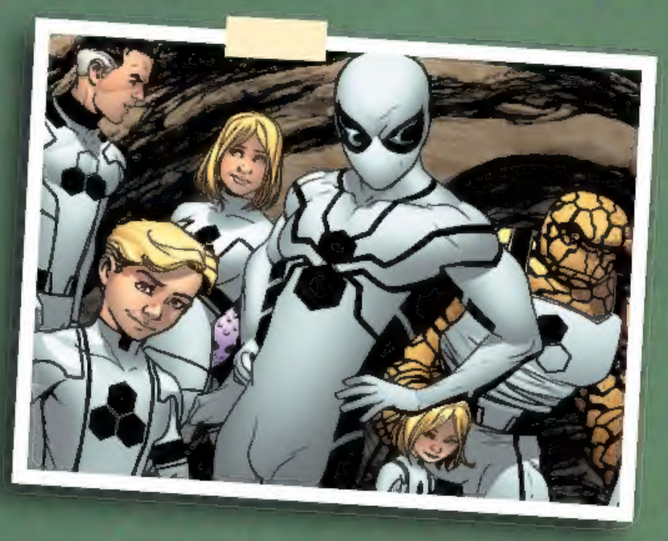
While attending a demonstration in radiology, high school student Peter Parker was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to radioactive rays. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had gained the spider's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider! From that day on he was...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



SAY, GANG, WE NEED ONE MORE GUY FOR THE DANCE! HOW ABOUT PETER PARKER OVER THERE?
ARE YOU KIDDIN'? THAT BOOKWORM WOULDN'T KNOW A CHA-CHA FROM A WALTZ!
PETER PARKER? HE'S MIDTOWN HIGH'S ONLY PROFESSIONAL WALLFLOWER!

Your Substitute Teacher: Mr. Parker

His IDENTITY IS SECRET! (NOT EVEN HIS GIRLFRIEND KNOWS!)

The FF. does because he's on the team now - and some of the Avengers. He's on that team too. DORK

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Future Foundation Headquarters.

...REFINING THE *SCHRODINGER EQUATION* TO DETERMINE THE *EXACT MOMENT* AN ALTERNATE REALITY IS CREATED, THEORETICALLY PERMITTING *ENGINEERING* OF--

"SORRY LINCOLN CENTER GOT STOMPED BY THE GIANT MONSTER, MR. MAYOR, BUT REED WUZ KILLIN' WITH A BIT ABOUT QUANTUM PHYSICS."

AND ALEX WILL LEAD THE CLASS FROM HERE.

OKAY, LET'S DISCUSS EVERETT'S *UNIVERSAL WAVEFUNCTION THEORY* AND HOW IT RELATES TO...

LOOK AT THAT. A ROOM FULL OF KIDS EXCITED ABOUT SCIENCE.

MISTER PARKER

BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW ONE OF THOSE.

HADN'T REALIZED HOW MUCH I MISS IT.

Y'KNOW, GUYS, IF I LEARNED ANYTHING FROM PARIS IT'S THAT *KAIJU* RAMPAGES AREN'T EXACTLY IN MY WHEELHOUSE. I COULD STAY HERE AND RUN THE CLASS IF YOU WANT.

THAT'S SWEET OF YOU TO OFFER, SPIDER-MAN, BUT ALEX IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE.

SUE'S RIGHT...AND THEIR WORK'S AT A CRITICAL PHASE. THEY CAN'T AFFORD ANY DISTRACTIONS.

DISTRACTIONS? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK ***I'D*** BE A DISTRACTION?

UH, I ONLY MEANT...WELL, IF WE EXAMINE THE ***ETYMOLOGY*** OF THE WORD...

I USED TO TEACH SCIENCE! AND THERE WERE NEVER ANY--

--OKAY, THERE WAS WHAT THE SCHOOL PAPER CALLED THE "*SILLY STRING APOCALYPSE.*"

...BUT I WAS TRYING TO DEMONSTRATE THE THEORIES BEHIND MY WEB-SHOOTERS WITHOUT REVEALING MY IDENTITY--

OH, LOOK.

WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THAT INSTEAD.

MMMRRRRRRRRRRGGG

I'LL KEEP THAT CREATURE IN THE WATER, BUT HURRY...I'M NOT SURE HOW LONG MY FORCE-FIELD CAN HOLD SOMETHING SO MASSIVE.

BEN, *YOU* THINK I'D MAKE A GOOD TEACHER, RIGHT?

YER ASKIN' THE WRONG GUY. I GOT KICKED OUTTA HEBREW SCHOOL. WHICH DON'T EXACTLY MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE ONE'A THE CHOSEN PEOPLE, LEMME TELL YA.

DON'T LET WHAT STRETCHO SAID GET TO YA, WEBS. ALLS HE MEANT IS THAT THE KIDS LOOK AT YA MORE LIKE A PAL THAN AN AUTHORITY FIGURE.

I KNOW, IT'S JUST...*TEACHING* WAS ONE OF THE FEW GOOD THINGS I DID WITH MY LIFE.

AND WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED LATELY, I MISS FEELING LIKE I'M HAVING A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE WORLD.

YEAH, CUZ STOPPIN' *COUSIN ITT* HERE FROM LEVELIN' MANHATTAN, THAT AIN'T USEFUL AT ALL.

HRROOOO!

THAT'S ODD. MY READINGS SUGGEST THIS CREATURE CAME FROM THE *MICROVERSE*.

THE *SUBATOMIC* UNIVERSE? SHOULDN'T IT BE, OH, A MILLION TIMES *TEENSIER?*

OR MORE. THERE'S NO NATURAL WAY IT SHOULD HAVE GROWN INTO OUR DIMENSION, LET ALONE BECOME THIS *HUGE*. IF IT'S SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO OUR RECENT TRIP THERE--

KNOCK KNOCK

PARDON ME, MRS. RICHARDS, BUT WOULD YOU MIND DROPPING YOUR FORCE-FIELD FOR A MOMENT?

OF COURSE, GIANT-MAN

MUCH OBLIGED.

WHAAAMM

YOU'RE RIGHT, REED...THIS IS A MICROVERSAL CREATURE. AND ITS GROWTH IS ARTIFICIALLY INDUCED.

FORTUNATELY, I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH THESE MATTERS. IF YOU'LL DISTRACT IT, I'LL SHRINK IT DOWN.

HEY, LEAVE IT TO ME. APPARENTLY DISTRACTIONS ARE MY FORTE.

NOT TO MAKE THIS A QUID PRO QUO SITUATION, BUT I ACTUALLY CAME HERE HOPING YOU FOLKS MIGHT HELP ME WITH SOMETHING.

YOU KNOW I RECENTLY STARTED ***AVENGERS ACADEMY***, WHERE THE OTHER AVENGERS AND I TRAIN YOUNG SUPERHUMANS. AND, WELL...

ALL CORE FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE OTHER COMMITMENTS TOMORROW. WE'RE IN DIRE NEED OF A SUBSTITUTE.

NORMALLY I'D BE HAPPY TO, HANK, BUT I'M CONCERNED THIS CREATURE'S PRESENCE IS RELATED TO OUR JOURNEY TO THE MICROVERSE. I SHOULD GO THERE AND INVESTIGATE.

OH, I CONCUR...I WAS ACTUALLY THINKING OF ONE OF YOUR TEAMMATES.

SOMEONE WHO'S ALSO AN AVENGER.

WELL, THANK YOU. IT'S NICE TO KNOW ***SOMEONE*** APPRECIATES--

WHAT DO YOU SAY, BEN?

HUH?

I KNOW THE KIDS WOULD *LOVE* YOU. AND SOME OF THEM HAVE ISOLATION ISSUES I THINK YOU COULD HELP WITH.

UM...THE THING IS, IF RABBI LIEBOWITZ WAS TELLIN' THE TRUTH, THERE MIGHT BE SOME *"INCIDENTS"* ON MY PERMANENT RECORD THAT KINDA HURT MY QUALIFICATIONS...

NOW HOLD ON JUST ONE FLIPPIN' SECOND!

I'M IN THE AVENGERS TOO! I'M ON *BOTH FREAKIN' TEAMS!*

YOU'RE TRAINING TEEN SUPER HEROES? I WAS THE *ORIGINAL* TEENAGE SUPER HERO!

AND I HAVE A *TEACHER'S LICENSE!* I TAUGHT KIDS FOR A *LIVING!*

YOU DID?

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. YOU'RE THE *IDEAL* CHOICE! THESE ARE *AT-RISK* KIDS, AND YOU'VE ALREADY MADE VIRTUALLY *EVERY* MISTAKE A YOUNG HERO POSSIBLY COULD.

HUH? LIKE WHAT?

WELL, YOUR ILL-ADVISED PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING CAREER... ALLOWING YOURSELF TO BE BRANDED A *MENACE*, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE STUCK...THE *SPIDER-MOBILE*...WE USE YOU AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT--

OKAY! LET'S LEAVE IT AT *"IDEAL CHOICE"* AND MOVE ON.

HOW ARE THESE KIDS AT RISK? FROM DRUGS AND GANGS?

NOT EXACTLY. YOUR OLD ENEMY *NORMAN OSBORN* TRIED TO MOLD THEM IN HIS IMAGE...OFTEN THROUGH TORTURE AND *BRAINWASHING.*

IF WE DON'T LEAD THEM DOWN THE RIGHT PATH, WE'RE *ALL* AT RISK OF THEIR BECOMING *CRIMINALS.*

VERY *POWERFUL* ONES.

"*HAZMAT* IS SO TOXIC SHE HAS TO REMAIN IN A CONTAINMENT SUIT AT ALL TIMES. SHE IS COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD.

"AS IS *METTLE*, WHO HAD HIS FLESH STRIPPED OFF BY OSBORN. HE'S TRAPPED IN A METAL FORM WITH NO TACTILE SENSATION.

"*FINESSE* CAN MASTER ANY SKILL IN SECONDS, BUT DOESN'T SEEM TO GRASP HUMAN EMOTION... AND HER BIOLOGICAL FATHER MAY BE A MASTER CRIMINAL.

"*REPTIL* SEEMS EAGER TO DO THE RIGHT THING, BUT HE CAN LOSE CONTROL WHEN HE CHANGES INTO DINOSAUR FORM.

"*VEIL'S* BODY IS SLOWLY LOSING COHESION...IF I DON'T FIND A CURE, SHE'LL BECOME AS INSUBSTANTIAL AS A GHOST.

"OH, AND *STRIKER* ELECTROCUTED A MAN.

IN *SELF-DEFENSE*, OF COURSE."

WOW... I'VE SEEN LESS BAGGAGE AT NEWARK AIRPORT. AND I KNOW FROM BAGGAGE.

I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS, SPIDER-MAN. WITH KIDS LIKE THESE, ONE GOOD TEACHER CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR BECOMING THE NEXT *CAPTAIN AMERICA*...

...OR THE NEXT *RED SKULL*.

OF COURSE, NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD THE DETAILS, IF YOU'RE HAVING DOUBTS...

DOUBTS? *NO WAY PYM, MY MAN!* NOT EVEN A LITTLE!

DOUBTS! YOU DON'T REALIZE WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO.

Later.

I AM *SO* HAVING DOUBTS.

I MEAN, I KNOW IT'S JUST A ONE-DAY SUBSTITUTE GIG, BUT... IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HUNG UP THE CHALK...

PETER, YOU'LL BE GREAT. I CAN TELL FROM THE WAY YOU TALK ABOUT IT HOW MUCH YOU LOVED TEACHING.

I DID, CARLIE. I ONLY STOPPED BECAUSE...

BECAUSE I REVEALED MY SECRET IDENTITY TO THE PUBLIC AND BAD GUYS WERE TRYING TO KILL ME, SO I QUIT, THEN MAGICKED EVERYONE INTO FORGETTING I'M SPIDEY.

BUT MY RECORD STILL SHOWS I QUIT, SO I'VE GOT A REP AS "UNRELIABLE"...

...BECAUSE OF BUDGET CUTS. BUT IT'S BEEN A WHILE, Y'KNOW? AND I LOVE MY JOB AT HORIZON LABS JUST AS MUCH, SO MAYBE I SHOULD LET THE PAST GO...

SORRY FOR TURNING OUR DATE INTO THERAPY. I'LL SHUT UP NOW.

HEY. YOU LOOK SERIOUSLY WORRIED. WHAT'S THIS REALLY ABOUT?

I MESS UP A LOT, CARLIE. A LOT. IN THE LAB, IT'S NO BIG DEAL... YOU LEARN FROM MISTAKES.

BUT THESE ARE *AT-RISK KIDS*. I COULD RUIN THEIR WHOLE *LIVES*.

OR *SAVE* THEM.

YOU'LL SEE, BABE. YOU'LL GET UP THERE TOMORROW AND WITHIN THIRTY SECONDS ALL THIS TENSION WILL MELT RIGHT AWAY.

Avengers Academy.

DEEP WITHIN AVENGERS MANSION IN GOOD OL' NEW YORK CITY.

UM...

ER...

AHEM...

UM... GOOD MORNING, CLASS.

TWENTY-NINE MISSISSIPPI...THIRTY MISSISSIPPI...

DOES THE CLOCK SEEM SLOW TO ANYONE ELSE?

First Period. Superhuman Ethics.

SO LET'S SAY YOU'RE IN SCHOOL IN YOUR CIVILIAN IDENTITY. SOME JOCK GIVES YOU A WEDGIE IN FRONT OF A BUNCH OF HOT GIRLS AND CALLS YOU "EGGHEAD."

(JUST TO MAKE UP SOMETHING THAT NEVER ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO ME.)

WHAT DO YOU DO?

WHAT DO YOU DO?

I TELL HIM THE *FIFTIES* CALLED, AND THEY WANT THEIR INSULT BACK.

THEN I ZAP HIM WHERE THE CRACK MEETS HIS BACK.

NO, SEE, YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT REVEALING WHO YOU REALLY ARE. WHICH MEANS YOUR *ENEMIES* CAN COME AFTER YOUR *LOVED ONES*.

EVERYONE KNOWS WHO I AM ALREADY. AND MY MOM HAS AVENGERS SECURITY ON HER HOUSE.

NOT TO MENTION, DUDE, WHAT KIND OF CIVILIAN IDENTITY AM *I* EVER GONNA HAVE LOOKING LIKE THIS?

IT DOES SEEM YOU'RE OPERATING ON AN OUTMODED ASSUMPTION OF THE DESIRABILITY OF SUPERHUMAN ASSIMILATION INTO NON-POWERED SOCIETY.

SURELY YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE *POST-CIVIL WAR* SCHOOL OF THOUGHT, WHICH ARGUES THAT, BY OUR VERY NATURE, WE'RE A THREAT TO CIVILIANS AND SHOULD LIVE APART FROM THEM?

UH, OKAY, NEW SCENARIO. YOU'RE ON A *DATE*, AND A BAD GUY ROBS A BANK NEARBY--

A "DATE?" HOW OLD ARE YOU? PEOPLE STILL WENT ON DATES WHEN YOU WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY *CALLED* IT, IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER...I MEAN...

SPIDER-MAN, I JUST WANT TO SAY IT'S A REAL HONOR HAVING YOU TEACH US. I'M A *HUGE* FAN, GOING BACK TO WHEN YOU WERE A WRESTLER.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED. THE PRESS CALLS YOU A MENACE NOW, BUT YOU WERE REALLY POPULAR AT FIRST. A *CELEBRITY*. CAN I ASK WHY YOU GAVE THAT UP?

OKAY, REPTIL. THAT WAS GONNA BE MY CLOSER, BUT WHAT THE HECK.

THINGS... CHANGED. I REALIZED IT WAS A SELFISH THING TO DO WITH MY ABILITIES WHEN I COULD USE THEM TO HELP PEOPLE INSTEAD.

SEE, WITH *GREAT POWER* COMES--

GREAT RESPONSIBILITY, DUH.

YOU STOLE THAT FROM GIANT-MAN. HE SAYS IT *CONSTANTLY.*

WHAT? *NO!* *HE* STOLE IT FROM *ME!*

BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE MADE A LOT OF *MONEY* ON TV? MONEY YOU COULD USE TO HELP YOU FIGHT CRIME... AND DONATE TO CHARITY?

WOULDN'T FIGHTING MALARIA IN AFRICA IMPROVE A LOT MORE PEOPLE'S LIVES THAN FIGHTING *ELECTRO?*

I GUESS...BUT I ALSO COULDN'T GET *PAID* WITHOUT TELLING THEM MY REAL NAME TO PUT ON THE CHECK.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SET UP A LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION, RUN IT THROUGH SOME SHELL COMPANIES TO HIDE THE TRAIL, AND HAVE THEM PAY YOU UNDER YOUR BUSINESS NAME?

"SPIDER-MAN, LLC." PROBLEM SOLVED, AND YOU EVEN SAVE ON YOUR TAXES.

WHO WANTS TO GO ON PATROL?

Manhattan.

SO, WHAT, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO JUST FLY AROUND AIMLESSLY AND HOPE WE RUN INTO SOMEONE DUMB ENOUGH TO COMMIT A CRIME OUT IN THE OPEN?

YOUR AVENGERS SKY-CYCLES PICK UP POLICE FREQUENCIES. AND YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW WILLING CROOKS WHO DRESS UP IN SPANDEX ARE TO PUT IT ALL OUT THERE.

YOU DON'T HAVE A POLICE SCANNER. HOW DO YOU DO IT?

UM, TRADE SECRET.

I *USED* TO RELY ON MY *SPIDER-SENSE*, WHICH IS NOW AS DISTANT A MEMORY AS MY TEACHING ABILITY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I'M MELTING DOWN HERE!

EVEN ON MY WORST DAY IN THE CLASSROOM, I WAS NEVER SUCH A HOT MESS. I'M NOT JUST RUSTY, I'M PRACTICALLY *OXIDIZED!*

SEE HOW HE LOST IT IN ASM #654. -SENSELESS STEVE

OKAY, PETE, PULL IT TOGETHER. FIRST RULE OF TEACHING, NEVER LOSE THE...

...KIDS...

NUTS.

OH, GOD...PLEASE, I GAVE YOU MY PURSE, YOU'VE GOT NO REASON TO--

NO? WHAT ABOUT THAT LOOK YOU GAVE ME ON THE STREET, LIKE I'M SOMETHIN' STICKY ON YOUR SHOE? WHAT ABOUT YOUR WALL STREET JOB, RIPPIN' OFF PEOPLE LIKE ME?

I GOT THE BEST REASON IN THE WORLD, SWEETHEART. I *HATE* YOU.

GLUGH!

SOLID METTLE!

YOU LIKE THAT? IT'S MY NEW BATTLE CRY!

BLAM BLAM

IT *SUCKS*. DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

ARE YOU *CRAZY?* YOU BROKE THAT GUY'S JAW!

HE'S LUCKY I DIDN'T *BURN* IT OFF. DUDE'S A VIOLENT PSYCHO.

I AGREE. IT'S GRAMMATICALLY MEANINGLESS *AND* A NON SEQUITUR.

BATTLE CRIES ARE MEANT TO SCARE YOUR ENEMIES, NOT *CONFUSE* THEM.

YOU DON'T RUN OFF HALF-COCKED LIKE THAT! WHAT IF THE BULLET RICOCHETS HAD HIT SOMEONE?

HEY, I WAS BETWEEN THE GUN AND EVERYONE ELSE. I'M NOT *STUPID*.

AND I'M TURNING INTO *ISOFLURANE*. THEY'LL BE UNCONSCIOUS AND PAIN-FREE UNTIL WE CAN GET THEM TO A DOCTOR.

WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING, SPIDER-MAN. WE HAVE HAD *SOME* TRAINING.

NOT ENOUGH, FROM WHERE I'M STANDING.

CAN I JUST SAY I'M VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR PERFORMANCE?

NO! YOU CAN'T.

NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE. I RECOGNIZE THESE GUYS...THEY'RE SMALL-TIME PURSE-SNATCHERS. NEVER DONE ANYTHING REMOTELY VIOLENT. DID THEY SAY ANYTHING?

JUST THAT THEY HATE HER.

BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW THEM!

SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG HERE.

I FEEL LIKE IF I COULD JUST GET MY ACT TOGETHER, I'D FIGURE IT OUT, BUT THE WAY THIS DAY'S BEEN GOING, I'M AFRAID...

WAIT!

FEAR... HATE...DOUBT... MICROVERSE...

OH, NO. I KNOW WHAT THIS IS.

OF COURSE. ALL BEINGS, DEEP WITHIN THE MOST PRIMITIVE, PRIMEVAL CORNERS OF THEIR SOULS, ARE INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH...

...THE PSYCHO-MAN.

Y-YOU'RE DOING THIS TO ME. I KNOW YOU ARE. BUT I... I CAN'T...

YES, THE SELF-DOUBT SHOULD BE QUITE PARALYZING BY NOW. I ADDED HINTS OF ***FEAR*** AND ***SELF-HATE*** AS WELL...FOR FLAVOR...BUT THE VEIN OF ***DOUBT*** WITHIN YOU IS RICHEST BY FAR.

THAT MONSTER... YESTERDAY... THAT WAS YOU.

A LURE TO DRAW RICHARDS INTO MY SUBATOMIC REALM. ONLY ***HE*** MIGHT HAVE IDENTIFIED MY HANDIWORK BEFORE BEING RENDERED HELPLESS. NOW I HAVE TIME TO LAY HIM LOW.

I OWE YOU ALL MUCH FOR LEADING ME HERE. YOUR REWARD SHALL BE LIFE... A ***LONG*** LIFE OF THE MOST EXQUISITE ***AGONY***, NOURISHING MY ANGUISH-BATTERIES FOR ***DECADES***--

IN ASM #658! -SELF-HATIN' STEVE

KRANG

DUDE! MONOLOGUE MUCH? AND SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S WITH THE iPAD ON STEROIDS?

FEA
DOUH
HATE

YEAH... "FEAR, DOUBT, HATE" IN ***SPANISH?*** KINDA WEIRD.

IT'S WRITTEN IN ***JAPANESE***, MORON. NOT THAT IT'S GONNA MATTER WHEN I MELT IT DOWN.

NO! WE ALL HEAR IT DIFFERENTLY.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S--

WRAAAH

--CAPABLE OF.

WRETCHED URCHINS!

THEY DON'T KNOW. THEY'VE NEVER FELT IT.

NEVER FELT THE *FEAR.*

STRIKER, SEE IF YOU CAN SHORT OUT HIS SYSTEMS!

I'LL TRY TO PENETRATE THAT ARMOR AND--AND--

NO!

GOT TO STAY SOLID OR I'LL DRIFT AWAY...LIKE SMOKE...

HE'LL KILL ME... OH, GOD, I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

THEY'VE NEVER GONE UP AGAINST *MR. FEAR* OR THE *LIZARD* OR THE *PURPLE MAN.* THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT IT.

I HAVE...I DO... AND I STILL CAN'T LIFT A FINGER TO HELP.

WATCH CLOSELY, SPIDER-MAN.

NNUHH...

WATCH AS THESE CHILDREN, PLACED IN YOUR CHARGE, MURDER EACH OTHER...

...WHILE YOU DO NOTHING.

STUCK-UP BRATS. YOU THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? I CAN'T TOUCH ANYONE!

SEE HOW PRETTY YOU ARE WHEN THE BONES IN YOUR FACE ARE BROKEN GLASS!

THIS IS MY FAULT. I BROUGHT THEM UP AGAINST AN ENEMY THEY'RE NOT EVEN CLOSE TO READY FOR. AND NOW THEY'RE GOING TO DIE.

AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT...JUST LIKE MARLA...JUST LIKE UNCLE BEN.

I DIDN'T SAVE HIM. HE DIED BECAUSE I WAS WEAK.

BECAUSE I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

I MADE A PROMISE TO HIM THAT DAY THAT I COULD NEVER BE GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP...

...BUT I SWORE I'D NEVER STOP TRYING.

TEN

TEN

THWIP

I *KNOW* I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH. I NEVER *WILL* BE.

WHA--?

WHUMP

THAT'S NO EXCUSE TO *STOP FIGHTING.*

NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT *SCARES* ME.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT *HURTS.*

KTUNG

BEN PARKER TAUGHT ME THAT.

AND *NOTHING* SCARES ME MORE THAN LETTING HIM DOWN.

ANNOYING.

KRAK

THROK

PLAY ON MY INSECURITIES ALL YOU WANT, PAL. I BET MY HEAD'S LIKE A VEGAS BUFFET FOR YOU.

BUT I'VE ALREADY FACED MY WORST FEARS. REALIZED MY DOUBTS DON'T MATTER.

AND AS FOR MY HATE...

...RIGHT NOW, THAT'S ALL YOURS!

FEAR

DOUBT

HATE

CHRAK

YOU'VE DESTROYED MY CONTROL BOX.

A FEAT FEW HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

BUT THERE *HAVE* BEEN OTHERS. AND SO I TOOK THE STEP OF MODIFYING IT.

IT REFINES AND AUGMENTS MY POWERS, YES. BUT THEY ARE NO LONGER IN THE BOX.

THEY ARE IN *ME*.

OH BOY.

HATE.

HATE.

HATE.

HATE.

To Be Continued!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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This week we say a big hello to Chris Gage and Reilly Brown who are bringing us this two-part tale guest-starring AVENGERS ACADEMY, one of the best new books out there right now. "Dandy" Dan Slott is taking a couple weeks to get caught up on this summer's "Spider-Island" event and also work on some other extra special Spidey stories next year. Chris and Dan worked extra hard though to make sure this 2-parter is important to Spidey's ongoing story though, so "fill-ins" these ain't. You'll notice this issue's big villain reveal Psycho-Man was set up just a couple issues ago in Spidey's adventures with the FF.

(On the subject of Psycho Man this issue's stellar backup story by Paul Benjamin and Javier Pulido also features the Micoverse Menace in one panel. It's just a weird scheduling coincidence, so don't read too much into it, pedantic ones!)

And with that all out of the way, let's get to your letters on ASM 655 by Slott and Marcos Martin. We've seen an explosion of e-mail on this one, so I'll try to get to as many as possible.

Thank you for a well thought out classic. It was like watching a silent film. I never ever recommend or suggest a second printing, but this deserves that honor.

Oscar Martin
Chicago IL,

In regards to the most current issue #655, only one tearful word will suffice: "AMAZING".

Mark Giannopulos
Fresno CA

The first page of *Amazing Spider-Man* #655 was one of the most heart-wrenching scenes I have ever seen in a comic. I have never felt so much emotion for J. Jonah Jameson in my life. I wanted to let Dan and Marcos know that they almost brought me to tears. Thank you very much for an amazing issue.

Cliff Chapman
Via e-mail

Let me begin by saying a heartfelt, "THANK YOU".

Thank you for bringing me back into Spider-Man. Thank you for making this comic a pleasure to read again. Thank you for making me care about my favorite hero again.

I won't go into detail about how much I hated the whole BND idea. It's sufficient to say I'm one of the ones who hated it with my very soul. But that killed my fandom for Spidey. It was as if Marvel officially declared that the Spidey I loved was dead. I avoided the book like a foul plague. It felt to me like Peter had regressed.

Then several months ago, I read a web article about Dan Slott taking over *Amazing* and his ideas for *Big Time*. Everything in that article sang to me. All the concepts – his intelligence, his relationships, his gadgets – spoke of the themes I loved the most about Spidey, and all the ways I felt he should have moved forward and grown all these years. And I found myself, fearfully, buying that first issue.

It was like seeing an old friend, or welcoming home a family member who'd been away for a long time. The story, the dialogue and the art were perfect. My Spidey was back. I haven't missed an issue since.

I need to reserve a part of this letter for Dan Slott. You, sir, are incredible. Never stop writing Spidey. I demand you stay on *Amazing* in the same way Bendis stuck to Ultimate Spidey. I have faith in what you're doing. You brought me back. I won't forget that.

At first, I was shocked that you'd taken away his spider-sense in the latest tale, and thought you stumbled. I considered it Spidey's most distinctive ability, even more than his wall-crawling. He'd lived with this unique ability since he was 15. Sure, I expect that he'll eventually regain it, but until he does, won't he feel crippled? But then I realized that this is just another opportunity for him to grow, and opportunities for more interesting stories. Strong characters only grow stronger from their disabilities. So will Spidey.

Maybe he'll come up with more defensive technology to protect himself. I mean he can't dodge a bullet storm anymore. New Spider Armor perhaps? He'll have to relearn how to fight, since he'd have to evade using his other senses, something he wasn't used to. Who'll teach him? Iron Fist? Steve Rogers? And who could he see to discover what was damaged that resulted in his Spider Sense loss? Who could help heal him? He's on the FF now, so Reed maybe?

I can't wait to find out. That anticipation is something I haven't had for years.

You've started Spidey on a great journey, and I can promise that this renewed fan will be riding along every issue of the way.

Ritchie Tiongson
Manila, Philippines

I just finished issue #655 and all I can say is WOW! This was a great issue. Everyone says Marla Jameson's death wasn't worth all that hype, but it wasn't about her death so much as its impact on Jonah. The silence for the first half of the book is so heavy and you can almost feel as Jonah does. Also Peter's nightmare was great.

Mr. Martin you knocked it out of the park on that. Dan Slott is doing a great job with the book! I am excited to see Spidey on the FF now!

Oooh, also great idea with Flash taking on the symbiote. I am a Marine vet, so I can relate to him! Keep up the "amazing" job (no pun intended)! I'm eagerly awaiting what's to come!!

Justin Weaver
Windber, PA

I just wanted to say that you guys (and gals) did a spectacular job on *The Amazing Spider-Man* #655. That is truly how comic books should be written and drawn. I've been reading comic books all my life and THAT was a great comic. B-E-A-U-T-I-F-U-L. Keep it up!

Many thanks from a True-Believer,

Matt McGill (18 yrs old)
Atascadero, CA

I have only one thing to say about ASM #655: Thank You. Thank you for one of the most brilliant issues of Spidey ever.

Dan Slott has proven himself to be the single best writer for the book in years, not just with this issue, but with everything since *Big Time* began. His character study in this issue really got to the core of who Pete/Spidey is. The guilt over an innocent's death that we've seen expressed so many times before has NEVER been told better.

As for Marcos Martin, I don't have the words to describe how great he is. This issue was (in my opinion) the single best drawn issue of ASM ever. Yes, I said it. I feel like I witnessed history. Every page, every single panel was a masterpiece. From Jonah's stoic demeanor to the chilling images of Gwen Stacy and Uncle Ben, emotion has never been captured as perfectly in the pages of *Amazing Spider-Man*. I am eagerly awaiting the next issue to see what else Mr. Martin has in store for us.

Once again, a truly inspiring job by all people involved. It is issues like this that make me proud to say "Make Mine Marvel".

Kevin Davis
Vernon, NJ

I just want to thank you for a wonderful issue of ASM #655. The cover was classic. The writing and art were fantastic. The silent issue for half the book was equally appropriate along with a powerful dream sequence that revisited a lot of history that Peter wrestles with. This issue was a real treat for people who have been with Spider-Man for awhile. The scene with Gwen was expected, but including Charlie from the now classic Spider-Man versus Wolverine was yet another stroke of genius that I'm glad has not been forgotten by the writers.

I also loved the fact you didn't introduce any plot lines or catch anybody up. Sometimes you should make people rummage through the back issue pile (like I had to) when they miss a few issues.

I even liked how you chose not to run any mail for the issue! After reading the story, I really did want to put the book down and savor what just happened. Keep it up!

Richard Romanoff
Somerville, MA

Thanks, Richard. I've been told many times the book would be better without these letter columns, so welcome to the club!

And thanks to all of you who wrote in with some amazingly well thought out letters. Some pointing out things about ASM #655 that even I had missed. Truly, Spidey's got the smartest, savviest fans around.

And that's it for now. We'll be back next time for more Spidey and the Avengers Academy, plus more on INFESTED, the lead-in to this summer's Spidey blockbuster: Spider-Island!

Viva San Juan!

Stephen Wacker
(doin' this on VACATION!)
4/21/11

NEXT!

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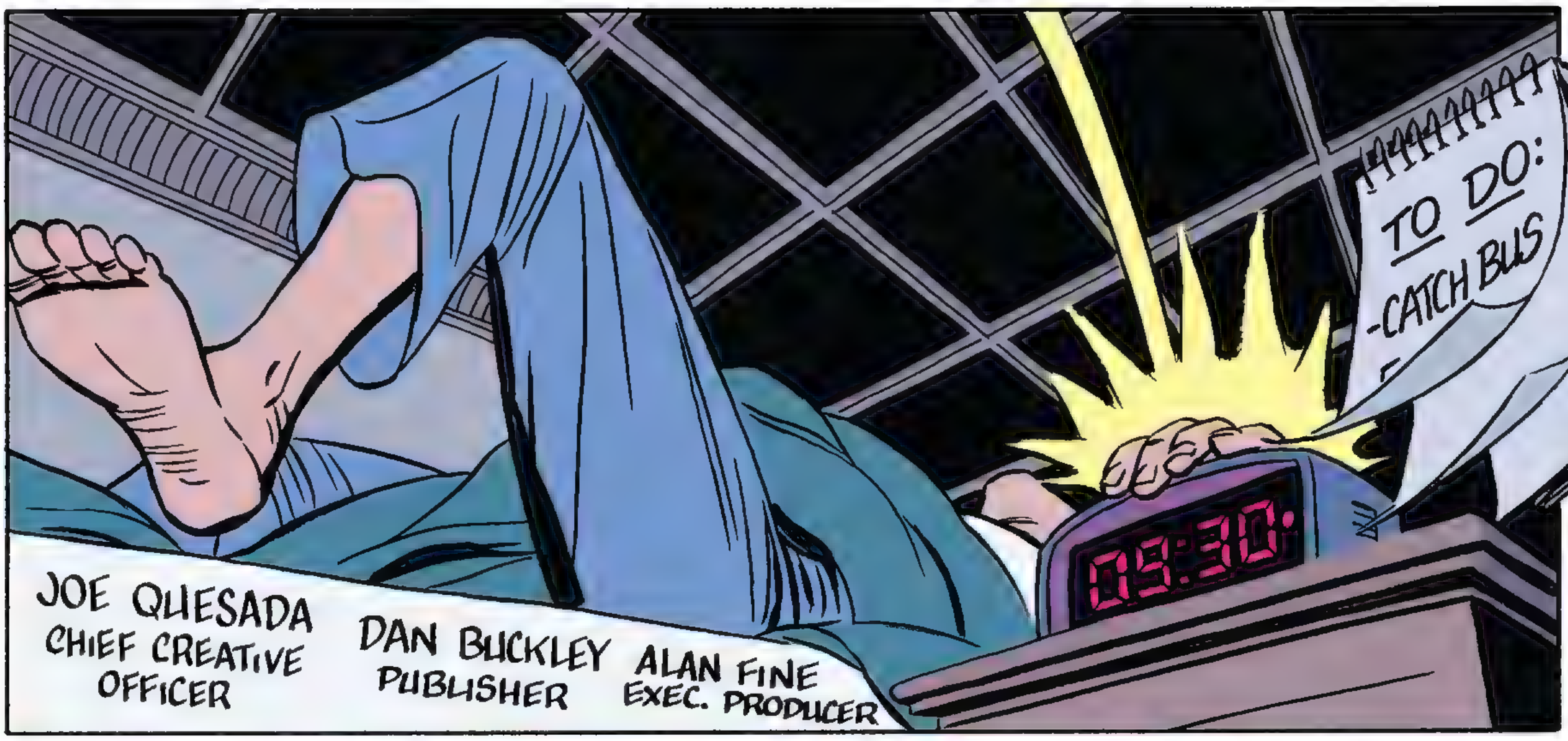
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM
(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)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STEVE WACKER
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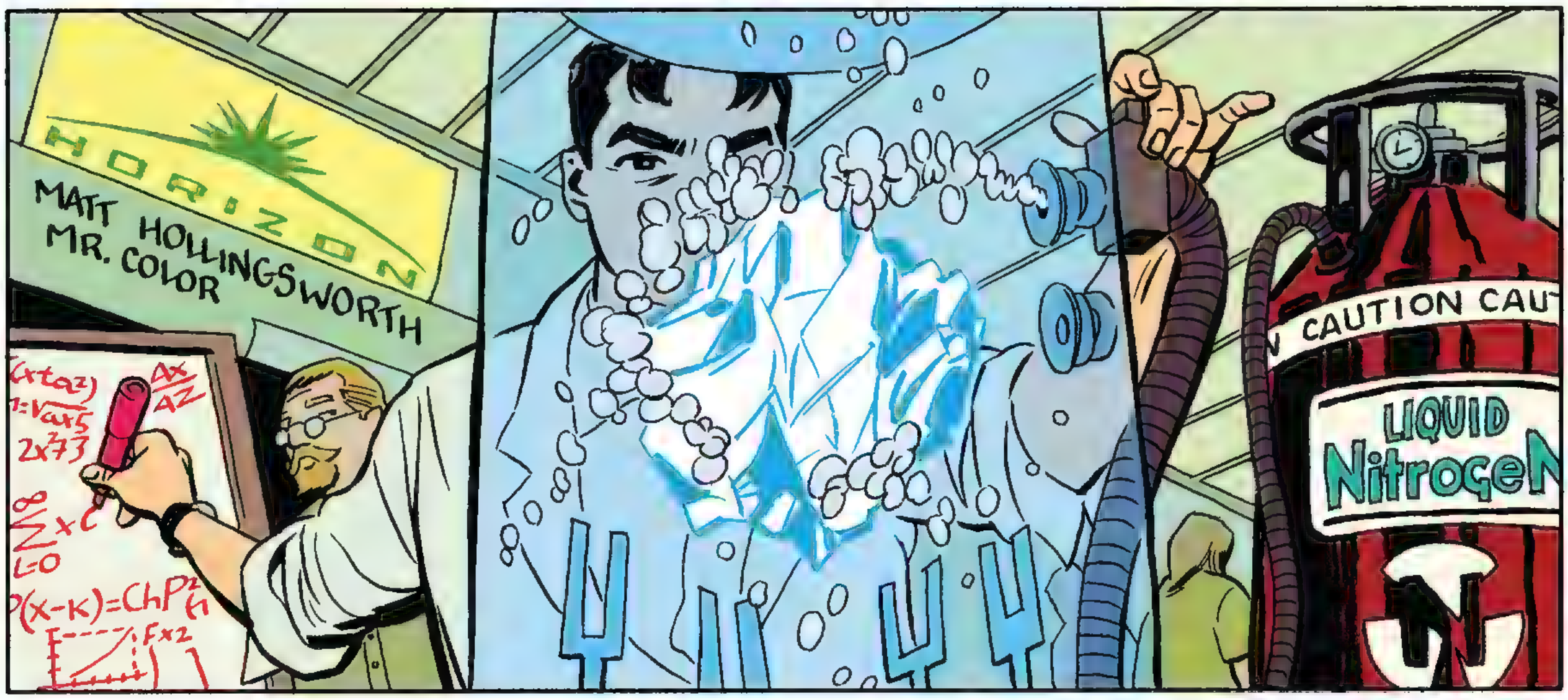
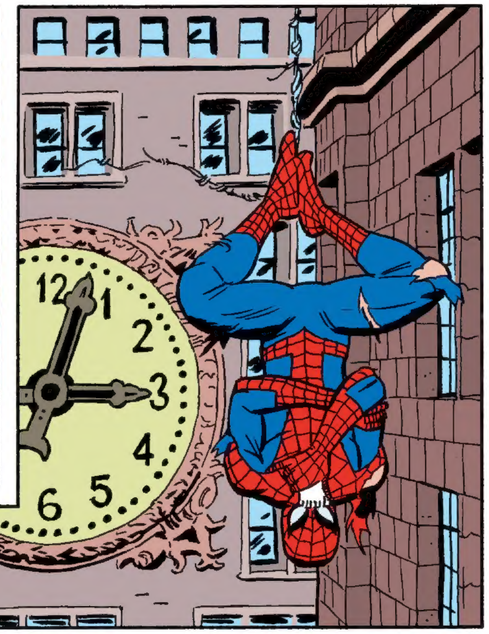
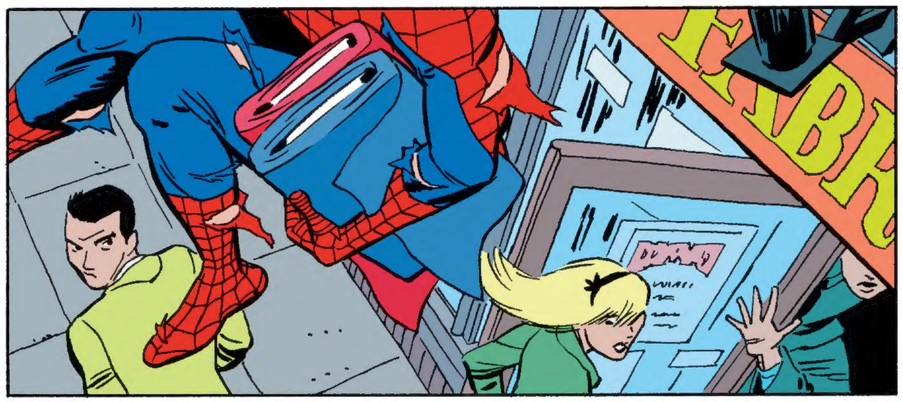

HORIZON
MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
MR. COLOR
CAUTION CAU
LIQUID
NitrogeN

-CATCH BUS
-EARN SOME DOUGH
-GET TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS
PAUL BENJAMIN & JAVIER PULIDO
STORYTELLERS

SPIDER-MAN: JUST ANOTHER DAY





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-TRAIN SIDEKICK
-RANDOM TEAM-UP

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-WEB-FLUID INGREDIENTS
-~~RANDOM TEAM UP~~
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MJ

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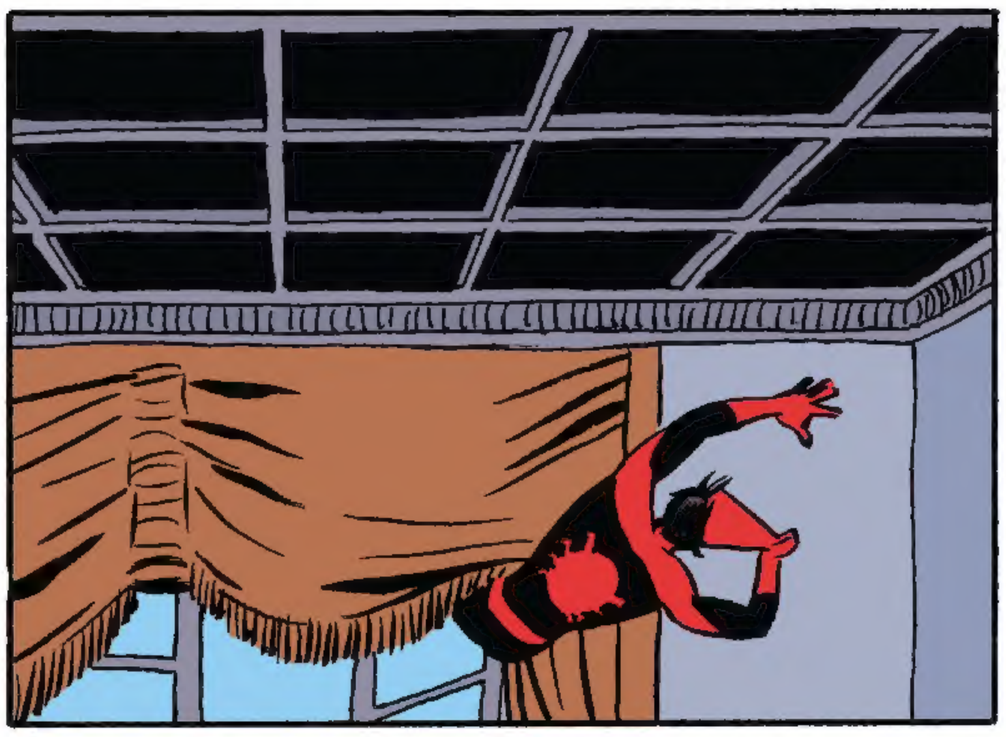
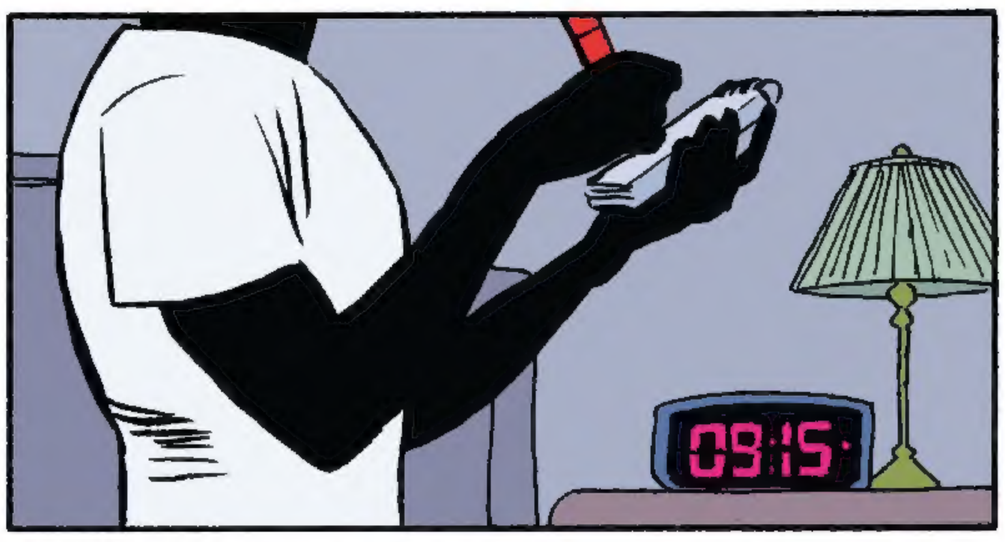
LIQUID NitrogeN

REMEMBER LAB: ~~KEEP IT~~ COOL!!





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